

2012 Discover Hartford Bicycle Tour

Tour Hartford Neighborhoods, Parks & Architecture
Saturday, September 29, 2012
10 - 25 - 40 Mile Routes - A family friendly leisurely ride



Register at
www.bikewalkct.org
Check-in Opens at 7 am
Bushnell Park
Kicking off that day of Connecticut



Sat. Sept. 29, 2012 ■ Bushnell Park, Hartford ■ Check-in @8am

Feel free to stop and check out anything that catches your eye; this is your tour.
[10-mile route attractions](#) [25-mile route attractions](#) [40-mile route attractions](#) [REGISTER!](#)

10-Mile Route – Things You’ll See

- **Bushnell Park** – Where you’ll start and end your tour, unless you choose to just keep on riding. In 1854 Horace Bushnell envisioned the Park as an urban green space where all the city’s residents could meet on common ground. Today the Park’s 37 green acres with its artwork, sculpture, and play areas are important to thousands of people and used each year by about half a million adults and children. [Bushnell Park](#) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is recognized for its historic artwork as well as its arboretum of over 700 beautiful trees.
- **Pratt Street** – Home to [JoJo’s](#) and [Downtown Yoga / Cycled Energy](#) and several other businesses reinvigorating this cozy Hartford street. You’ll be “hugged” by the human scale street lined with local proprietors.
- **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art** – In addition to their art collection [The Wadsworth](#) put on some excellent First Thursday events and their Aetna Cinema puts on regular film series that you won’t see at the movie megaplexes.
- **Hartford Public Library** - Through its mix of enriching resources, you can find a place that provides the spark for your conversation, the power for your passion, the courage for your soul and the food for your mind. The [Hartford Public Library](#) is more than books, it is community!
- **Butler-McCook House** – On your left on Main Street the [Butler-McCook House & Garden](#) was home to four generations of a family who participated in, witnessed, and recorded the evolution of Main Street between the American Revolution and the mid-twentieth century. The house’s exterior looks much as it did when it was built in 1782. The house is open for tours and also hosts monthly cocktail hours with entertainment on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- **Charter Oak Cultural Center** – On your right just after you turn onto Charter Oak Ave the Charter [Oak Cultural Center](#) harnesses the power of the arts to create positive social change. We host cutting-edge, thought-provoking visual and performing arts, including dance, theater, film, concerts, readings, gallery exhibits and much more. Our overall goal is to give access to the arts to all who hunger for them.
- **The Colt Building** – Just before turning into the Riverfront Park, you’ll see the [Colt Building](#) on your right. Connecticut is known throughout the world for industrial innovation. The Colt Armory, workers housing, Colt Park, the Colt home ‘Armsmeat’ and the Church of the Good Shepard our part of our state history.



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- **Riverfront Plaza and Riverside Park** – After passing under the always scenic I-91 (joke!) you'll find yourself reconnected to the [Hartford Riverfront](#). Passing by the Riverfront Plaza where many free concerts take place during the summer you'll come to the Riverfront Boathouse in Riverside Park.
- Unfortunately, there are some sprawly, industrial bits mixed in here until you get to something interesting. Apologies.
- **The Hartford Circus Fire Memorial** – Passing behind Wish School you'll find a memorial for the [Harford Circus Fire](#) of 1944. Almost 170 died in this Barnum & Bailey big top fire. Stop and read the monuments for more information.
- **Keney Park** – This huge 694 acre park on Hartford's north end includes 584 acres in Hartford and 110 acres in Windsor. [Keney Park](#) is the largest park within the city system, providing not only neighborhood recreation in a historic designed landscape, but also ecologically rich environments. With newly repaved park roads and miles of lightly used carriage roads, this is a hidden gem for urban cyclists.
- **The Artists Collective** - The [Artists Collective](#) on Woodland Street was founded in 1970 by world renowned alto-saxophonist, composer, educator Jackie McLean as an interdisciplinary arts and cultural institution serving the Greater Hartford area. It is the only multi-arts and cultural organization of its kind in Connecticut emphasizing the cultural and artistic contributions of the African Diaspora.
- **Flower Street** – Flower Street is a locally known and well used connection between major Hartford employers on Farmington Avenue and the recently kindled business district on Capitol Avenue in the Frog Hollow neighborhood. The DOT initially proposed [closing Flower Street](#) to all traffic due to the CTFastrak busway. After massive outcry from the neighborhood and Bike Walk CT, a design study for maintaining this critical bike / ped crossing is in the works. Stay vigilant!
- **The East Coast Greenway** – The 10 mile route finishes up on the [East Coast Greenway](#) route coming back into Bushnell Park. The ECG stretches from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine – almost 3,000 miles with about ¼ on multi-use paths. Bet you didn't know the ECG passes through Hartford.
- **Soldier and Sailors Memorial Arch** – This Gothic monument dedicated in 1886 is made of brownstone from Portland, Connecticut, and cost about \$60,000 (from the city treasury). Notice especially the terra cotta frieze depicting scenes from the Civil War, and midway below it, eight-foot-tall statues representing the various kinds of residents who left their homes, families and businesses to fight in the War. [The Arch](#) will be open for tours on Saturday, so go check it out in person.



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25 Mile Route – O’ The Places You’ll Go!

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- **Connecticut Historical Society** - Founded in 1825, the [Connecticut Historical Society](#) houses an extensive and comprehensive Connecticut-related collection of manuscripts, printed material, artifacts and images that document social, cultural, and family history.
- **Elizabeth Park** – The area which is now known as [Elizabeth Park](#) was once owned by Charles M. Pond. When Mr. Pond passed away, he willed his estate to the City of Hartford with the stipulations that it be used as a horticultural park and that it be named for his wife, Elizabeth, who had died a few years earlier.
- **Mark Twain House** – You'll see on Farmington Avenue the [Mark Twain House & Museum](#) which was the home of America's greatest author, Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain) and his family from 1874 to 1891. A must for Connecticut and visitors. For Twain fans the regular events will keep you coming back.
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- **Pope Park** – Crossing Park Street you'll enter [Pope Park](#). Pope Park was donated to the city of Hartford by Colonel Albert Pope for his employees and city residents to enjoy games, walking and out-of-door activities. Colonel Pope was the head of the [Pope Manufacturing Company](#), which manufactured bicycles and automobiles, including the well-known Columbia bicycle.
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- **Cedar Hill Cemetery** – This unique cemetery is particularly welcoming to living visitors. In addition to containing the resting places of some very well known Hartford-ites, you'll enjoy the arts, cultural, and heritage programs at [Cedar Hill](#).
- **Goodwin Park** – This 237 acre park shared with Wethersfield was designed by Olmsted, Olmsted and Elliot of Brookline, Massachusetts in 1900. [Goodwin Park](#) was named in 1900 in recognition of the valuable services of Francis Goodwin, first president of the Park Board under the new city charter.
- **Franklin Avenue** – Once dominated by Italian bakeries and restaurants now includes a significant amount of Puerto Rican flavor – still trying to feed you until you burst.
- **Charter Oak Landing** – Once you've [found this park](#), you'll be back. A bit quieter than the main riverfront park, this is a great spot to do some fishing, picnic, or catch a sunset.
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40-Mile Route – What’s A Hartford Park Doing Out Here?

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- **Batterson Park** – This is your special 40-mile route treat. [Batterson Park Pond](#) is located in Farmington and New Britain although it is owned by the City of Hartford. Curious, eh?
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